THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Fake Currency in Jammu and Kashmir

2261. DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'ISI Pumping Fake Currency into Jammu and Kashmir" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 15th July, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c). Government are aware of the report mentioned in the Question. From time to time there have been reports about Pakistan trying to smuggle countrerfeit currency notes into Jammu and Kashmir and seizures of fake currency have also been made. Recently on 26 June, 1996, 29 Indian Currency notes of Rs. 100 denomination were seized at Mendhar in Poonch district from one Noor Mohammed Khan. These have been sent to the National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Science, New Delhi, and their report is awaited.

Continuous vigil is being maintained by all the concerned agencies to check the incidence of infiltration/ smuggling, including fake currency, from across the border. The efforts in this regard include augmentation of the security force deployment in the vulnerable areas, intensified patrolling, including mobile patrolling provision of surveillance devices including telescopes and night vision devices, continuous streamlining of the intelligence machinery and greater coordination between all the concerned security agencies. All these efforts are being reviewed periodically with a view to check and contain the possibilities of infiltration/ smuggling.

Urban Development Projects

2262. SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the urban development projects of Andhra Pradesh pending before the Union Government; and

(b) the steps taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Under the Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT), powers for sanctioning Urban Development projects are delegated to State level Sanctioning Committees. The Sanctioning Committee for IDSMT Scheme in Andhra Pradesh had recommended the release of Central Assistance for 9 towns during 1995-96. However, based on the criterion of the share of population of Andhra Pradesh living in small and medium towns in the total population of the country residing in such towns, the State of Andhra Pradesh was allocated 6 towns for the 2 year period 1995-97 and a sum of Rs. 1.90 crore (Central grant) was allocated for release during 1995-96. In view of this allocation, 6 towns of Andhra Pradesh could be considered for release of Central Assistance and the allocated amount was released to the State Government. The towns pending consideration are Tuni, Tirupati and Bhongir.

(b) Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment is in constant touch with the State Government in getting the schemes implemented.

[English]

Rural Development in Rajasthan

2263. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated to various rural development agencies in Rajasthan for various centrally sponsored schemes are lying in the Project Director's account;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to fix the responsibility in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). The funds in respect of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Indira Awaas Yojna (IAY) and Million Wells Scheme (MWS) in respect of Rajasthan are released directly to the State Government which further release the Central funds alongwith the matching State share to the concerned District Rural Development Agency (s) (DRDAs). However, under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), funds are released directly to the DRDAs. The funds are kept in a saving bank account/ P.S. Bank or Post Office in an exclusive and separate bank account. In order to ensure that at the DRDA level funds allocated are utilised in a timely fashion, quarterly budgeting targets are laid down by the Central Government.